

Pastor's Update 2025 – February

Pastor Brandon's E-Mail: RevBOffice@gmail.com / call or text 530-760-8858

A New Sermon Series: "Edge Walking" Wandering the Hemlines of the Christ Tradition

Following the Way of Jesus will take us to the edge of so many things, as the holy one invites us to challenge the customs, traditions, relationships, and assumptions that would leave us settling for something less than that which is life-giving, authentic, and nourishing at the core of our soul. Over the next four Sundays, we will explore scripture stories of how Jesus addressed the edges of his life and impressed upon his disciples and followers to do the same.

He reminds us that at the point where our resources, skills, and hope end, when we realize we cannot accomplish on our own what we believe is essential for life, God will greet us with grace and offer us opportunities to trust that what is most essential is, in fact, just a step beyond where our fears hold us captive. God is with us in that next step moment.

And what of our times? Most of us have assumed that life would move along somewhat predictably: education, career, spouse, children, retirement, and a serene farewell to a life well lived. We thought our government might debate the shape and means of cherished institutions, but none would impede the gradual improvement of our life trajectories as individuals or as a society across generations. Now, on the brink of losing the stability and web of trust we have come to cherish, we realize the gravity of the words from Benjamin Franklin on Monday, September 17, 1787, when Elizabeth Willing Powel asked him: "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" He responded, "A republic, if you can keep it." <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/constitutionalconvention-september17.htm>

Jesus shows us the value (and cost) of our shared humanity and the common good, including our relationship with the earth and the whole of creation. Our interdependence is necessary for adapting to whatever faith the next moment requires. Life requires that we learn the skill of faith: the art of grasping and letting go. In the process we learn desperation, relief, satisfaction, gratitude, faith, and surrender. None of this is easy, but we are in this together. Thanks be to God! Let us keep practicing our walk, our faith, along the uncomfortable edges of the holy, of life!

Kate Bowler, professor of theology at Duke University, knows a thing or two about this walk of life. She survived a lethal diagnosis of stage IV cancer in 2015. You may resonate with her words of wisdom below:

Sometimes when I try to change, I feel a strange kind of grief.

Here I am, changing when I wasn't sure I could.

Here I am, changing without someone I love.

Here I am, realizing this change might leave a familiar world behind.

WAIT, COME BACK!

Change can feel like a small loss, even when it's for the better.

It stirs up the past, the people, the places, and the comfort of how things were.

But today, let's try to try without kicking up the dust of every part of our past.

Let's focus on today. Just today. Our *beautiful, terrible day*.

**As you navigate whatever change looks like for you,
these questions might help you stay grounded in this moment.**

1. When has a difficult change brought unexpected growth or insight into your life?
2. How might you focus on just today's challenges without carrying the weight of the past or future?

Blessed are we, mid-change, clutching our old selves like they're security blankets. May we release them gently (or with a dramatic scream) and make peace with the fact that growth feels a lot like grief wrapped in a bad cardigan.

With you in all the trying,

Kate

P.S. In a season of change? [Good Enough offers gentle wisdom for messy, beautiful growth.](#)

Congregational Care

If you believe the information below to be incorrect or needs updating, please contact Pastor Brandon or our Davis UMC office with the correct/updated information. Let us continually pray, send cards and notes, emails, make calls, and remain in connection with one another.

Prayer Chain – (send your prayer requests to this email address: (prayerchain@davisumc.org))

In Memory of

Kay Singleton

Memorial Service

Davis UMC – Wednesday, March 26, 2025 @ 2:00 PM – reception follows

Home Care - see church directory for contact information.

Jerry Beaman

Chuck and Blanche Shannon

Atria Covell Gardens - 1111 Alvarado Avenue, Davis California 95616

Betsy Marchand – *Memory Care*

Melody Moore

Jan Tackett

Carlton Senior Living - 2726 5th St, Davis, CA 95618

Ted Dill

Carol Holmes

The Farmstead at Dixon - 350 Gateway Dr., Dixon, CA 95620

Philip Kurien

University Retirement Community - 1515 Shasta Dr, Davis, CA 95616

Ted Dill – (Skilled Nursing)

Dotty Dixon

Joe Harper – *Memory Care* (Dotty's friend)

Brian and Louanne Horsfield

Jan Smyth

Ken and Diane Wagstaff – *Memory Care* (Diane)

Villanova Care - 563 Villanova Dr., Davis, CA 95616

Evelyn Raski

RESOURCES

Stephen's Ministry – contacts: *Caroline Chantry, Mary Ann Ingenthron* (Leaders) or

CaringBridge - <https://www.caringbridge.org/how-it-works>

A free, easy online tool for sharing health news with family and friends—all in one place.

Yolo Cares - <https://yolocares.org>

Dedicated to improving the quality of, and expanding access to, end-of-life services for persons/families of all backgrounds.